

54. Lloyd Service Station,
Pattamatta, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh.
55. Vijayalakshmi Enterprises,
Vijaywada, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh.

ONGC's Project at Sakhalin in Russia

1809. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC has taken up oil exploration project at Sakhalin in Russia;
- (b) if so, the details of the project viability;
- (c) the details of payment made to the evaluator of the project;
- (d) whether this has been cleared by the Ministry of Finance with certain reservations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) On 10.02.2001, ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a wholly subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. signed an agreement with Rosneft, the national oil company of Russian Federation, for acquiring 20% participating interest of the Russian company in the Sakhalin-I offshore project.

(b) The payback period for the proposed investment is about 5 years. The investment is likely to generate a return of about 14% in Dollar terms.

(c) A sum of US \$ 0.5 million (Rs. 2.34 crores) has been paid till date to J.P. Morgan—the evaluator of the project.

(d) and (e) The proposal was approved by the Government following all requisite inter-Ministerial deliberations.

Allotment of petrol pumps to martyrs of Indian Police Service

1810. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme for preferential allotment of Petrol and LPG agencies to the officials of Indian Police Service killed while performing official duty;

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(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of applications which are under consideration from the States of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is 8% reservation for the Paramilitary/ Police/Government personnel (PMP) category in the allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships. Widows/dependants of the officers of the Indian Police Service killed while performing official duty are also eligible to apply for the dealerships/distributorships under this category. The dependants of Police personnel, who are killed in action or persons permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated are also eligible for allotment of these dealerships/distributorships under the discretionary quota.

(c) Four locations in the PMP category are pending for selection of LPG distributors in the State of Assam. No location in this category is pending for selection of LPG distributors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. No location in this category is pending for selection of retail outlet dealers in the States of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir.

Entry of private oil firms in retail outlets

1811. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to allow private Oil Firms to set up retail outlets for Petrol and Diesel;

(b) whether this measure will affect Oil Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of Oil Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India announced a road map for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in November, 1997. The aforesaid announcement *inter alia* provided for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels viz. Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore or oil